

## COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# Burke County

North Carolina · Morganton · FIPS 37023 · Population 87,799  
· Crosodo Index #2265\*

| STATE BASELINE  | STATE TIER | ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE) | CONFIDENCE | LAST VERIFIED |
|-----------------|------------|--------------------------|------------|---------------|
| 02 NCAC 9C.0307 | Good       | —                        | MEDIUM     | 2026-05-05    |

**IMPORTANT — NOT LEGAL ADVICE**

This report compiles publicly-available statutes, regulations, and county zoning rules into a research reference. It is **not legal advice** and is provided **without warranty** as to accuracy, completeness, or current applicability.

Cottage food law changes frequently. Counties may amend zoning, health departments may issue new permits, and state legislatures may update statutes after the publication date shown above.

**Always verify rules directly with your state department of health/agriculture and your county health and planning offices before relying on them for any business or regulatory decision.** Consult a licensed attorney for advice specific to your situation.

## How to start — 60-second path

Burke County, North Carolina — permit, pickup, and label steps before the full county rules.

### HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

**Yes**

### STATE SALES CAP

—

### HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

**Conditional**

### ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

**Conditional**

### INSPECTION

**Yes**

### PETS

**Any pets in the home at any time disqualify the applicant from the NC Home Processor program.**

### BEFORE YOU SELL FROM THIS ADDRESS

- ☐ **1. Menu** — Confirm each product under North Carolina cottage food rules (county cannot expand a state ban).
- ☐ **2. Pickup & zoning** — Home occupation and porch pickup cells above; HOA/lease may still block customer traffic.
- ☐ **3. Local tax / license** — Business license or sales tax certificate if your city/parish requires it (common even with no state food permit).
- ☐ **4. Training** — Food handler or state registration before market day.
- ☐ **5. Labels** — Disclaimer, allergens, ingredients, net quantity, producer info.
- ☐ **6. Call if unclear** — County health and planning for your exact address.

### LABEL FIELDS TO INCLUDE

- ☐ Product name · producer name · address (or allowed alternative)
- ☐ Ingredients by weight · major allergens · net weight/quantity
- ☐ North Carolina home-kitchen disclaimer (see live label one-pager)

### CONTINUE ONLINE

[Open the live county page →](#)

[North Carolina label one-pager →](#)

[Local notes & questions →](#)

Planning path only — not legal advice. Rules change. Always verify with state and local offices before selling.

## NORTH CAROLINA: BURKE COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2265\* · FIPS 37023 · Morganton

# Burke County

Population 87,799 · State baseline: 02 NCAC 9C.0307 · **MEDIUM****QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY****HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?**

Yes (Same as all NC counties: home kitchen inspection by NCDA&CS required before any sales. Pets (including indoor pets) completely disqualify applicant. Only shelf-stable, non-refrigerated products allowed. Must verify well water or attach public water bill. Annual re-inspection required.)

**SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?**

No

**PETS ALLOWED?**

Any pets in the home at any time disqualify the applicant from the NC Home Processor program.

**HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?**

Conditional (NCDA&CS Step 4 requires checking with local/county planning department. Burke County Planning Department (seat: Morganton) should be consulted. City of Morganton zoning rules may also apply.)

**ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?**

Conditional

**INSPECTION REQUIRED?**

Yes (Annual inspection by NCDA&CS Food Regulatory Specialist. Initial inspection 8-12 weeks after application. Annual re-inspections required.)

**Home kitchen rules**

|                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED       | Yes — Same as all NC counties: home kitchen inspection by NCDA&CS required before any sales. Pets (including indoor pets) completely disqualify applicant. Only shelf-stable, non-refrigerated products allowed. Must verify well water or attach public water bill. Annual re-inspection required. |
| SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN | No                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| PET RESTRICTIONS           | Any pets in the home at any time disqualify the applicant from the NC Home Processor program.                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| WATER SUPPLY               | Public water: current bill required. Private well: coliform and E. coli test within one year by certified agency required.                                                                                                                                                                          |
| HANDWASHING                | Kitchen must pass NCDA&CS inspection; standard GMP handwashing requirements apply.                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| FOOD STORAGE               | Detailed storage plan required with application. All storage areas inspected.                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |

**Inspection & permitting**

|                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| INSPECTION REQUIRED    | Yes — Annual inspection by NCDA&CS Food Regulatory Specialist. Initial inspection 8-12 weeks after application. Annual re-inspections required.                                                              |
| HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT | Conditional — NCDA&CS Step 4 requires checking with local/county planning department. Burke County Planning Department (seat: Morganton) should be consulted. City of Morganton zoning rules may also apply. |
| LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE | Varies                                                                                                                                                                                                       |

**Customer-facing rules**

|                         |                                                                                                                                                 |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP | Conditional                                                                                                                                     |
| ON-SITE SIGNAGE         | Conditional                                                                                                                                     |
| DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES | Same as all NC counties: sales allowed at farmers markets, from home, at events, to retail stores, and to restaurants after passing inspection. |
| MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME   | Not specified in state rules; must be identified in the business plan.                                                                          |

**Relevant county code**

No Burke County-specific cottage food ordinance identified. State 02 NCAC 9C.0307 governs.

**RESEARCH NOTES**

Burke County follows the same statewide NC Home Processor program rules as all NC counties. No Burke County-specific cottage food overrides identified. The absolute pet prohibition is a distinctive and burdensome NC requirement. Annual inspection also distinguishes NC from most other states. Confidence is medium: state framework confirmed; Burke County-specific rules not verified from official county source.

**SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME**

<https://www.burkecounty.gov>

<https://www.ncagr.gov/divisions/food-drug-protection/food-program/food-drug-food-program-home-processor>

<https://www.ncagr.gov/food-drug/fdpd-home-processor-app-pdf/download?attachment=>

**Questions about this county?** Local notes and a place to leave a question: [crosodo.com/nb/north-carolina/burke-county-discuss](https://crosodo.com/nb/north-carolina/burke-county-discuss)

## Bordering counties — cottage food law

| Regulation                 | Burke County                                                                                                                                   | Lincoln County                                                                                                                                 | Caldwell County                                                                                                                                |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED       | Yes                                                                                                                                            | Yes                                                                                                                                            | Yes                                                                                                                                            |
| SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN | No                                                                                                                                             | No                                                                                                                                             | No                                                                                                                                             |
| PETS ALLOWED               | Any pets in the home at any time disqualify the applicant from the NC Home Processor program.                                                  | Any pets in the home at any time disqualify the applicant from operating a home-based food business under NC Home Processor program. This i... | Any pets in the home at any time disqualify the applicant from the NC Home Processor program.                                                  |
| INSPECTION REQUIRED        | Yes                                                                                                                                            | Yes                                                                                                                                            | Yes                                                                                                                                            |
| ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP    | Conditional                                                                                                                                    | Conditional                                                                                                                                    | Conditional                                                                                                                                    |
| ON-SITE SIGNAGE            | Conditional                                                                                                                                    | Conditional                                                                                                                                    | Conditional                                                                                                                                    |
| DELIVERY / PICKUP          | Same as all NC counties: sales allowed at farmers markets, from home, at events, to retail stores, and to restaurants after passing inspect... | Sales allowed at farmers markets, from home, at events, to retail stores, and to restaurants after passing inspection. No interstate sales.    | Sales allowed at farmers markets, from home, at events, to retail stores, and to restaurants after passing inspection.                         |
| HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT     | Conditional                                                                                                                                    | Conditional                                                                                                                                    | Conditional                                                                                                                                    |
| LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE     | Varies                                                                                                                                         | Varies                                                                                                                                         | Varies                                                                                                                                         |
| RESTRICTIONS               | Same as all NC counties: home kitchen inspection by NCDA&CS required before any sales. Pets (including indoor pets) completely disqualify a... | North Carolina requires a home kitchen inspection by NCDA&CS before any sales. Pets (including indoor pets) disqualify the applicant entire... | Same as all NC counties: home kitchen inspection by NCDA&CS required before sales. Pets (including indoor pets) completely disqualify appli... |
| FOOD STORAGE               | Detailed storage plan required with application. All storage areas inspected.                                                                  | Storage plan for supplies, equipment, and finished product must be provided with application. Areas where materials, ingredients, and equip... | Detailed storage plan required. All storage areas inspected.                                                                                   |
| POPULATION                 | 87,799                                                                                                                                         | 87,933                                                                                                                                         | 80,716                                                                                                                                         |

## State context — North Carolina cottage food law

Burke County's rules sit on top of North Carolina's state cottage food framework. The state law sets the floor — counties can add but cannot remove protections.

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|                       |                   |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| STATUTE               | ANNUAL SALES CAP  |
| 02 NCAC 9C.0307       | —                 |
| REGISTRATION REQUIRED | FOOD HANDLER CERT |
| Yes                   | No                |
| KITCHEN INSPECTION    | DIRECT SALES ONLY |
| Yes                   | No                |
| INDIRECT SALES        |                   |

Yes — Home processors may sell to retail stores, restaurants, and directly to consumers. Sales at farmers markets are permitted. Labels are required for wholesale and packaged self-service retail; direct hand-to-consumer sales (e.g., from home or at events) may be exempt from affixed labels if ingredient info is available on request. NC requires annual home kitchen inspection, which is unusual among no-cap states.

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For the full state-level analysis including the verbatim statute text, see the **North Carolina cottage food law report** on Crosodo, or open the live guide: [crosodo.com/states/north-carolina](https://crosodo.com/states/north-carolina).

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### STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES

State statute: <http://reports.oah.state.nc.us/ncac/title%2002%20-%20agriculture%20and%20consumer%20services/chapter%2009%20-%20food%20and%20drug%20protection/subchapter%20c/02%20ncac%2009c%20.0307.pdf>

State dept cottage food page: <https://www.ncagr.gov/divisions/food-drug-protection/food-program/fdpd-food-program-home-processor>

Forrager.com: <https://forrager.com/law/north-carolina/>

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**Questions about Burke County?** Local notes and a place to leave a question are on Crosodo. We monitor new threads — start with zoning, permits, or porch pickup.

[crosodo.com/nb/north-carolina/burke-county-discuss](https://crosodo.com/nb/north-carolina/burke-county-discuss)

## Classifieds

Resources for cottage food & home bakers · [crosodo.com/advertise](https://crosodo.com/advertise)

### NATIONAL

#### SUPPLIES

##### Advertise here — Supplies

Reach home bakers across the country. [crosodo.com/advertise](https://crosodo.com/advertise)

#### COURSES

##### Advertise here — Courses

Reach home bakers across the country. [crosodo.com/advertise](https://crosodo.com/advertise)

#### INSURANCE

##### Advertise here — Insurance

Reach home bakers across the country. [crosodo.com/advertise](https://crosodo.com/advertise)

### LOCAL

#### Advertise here

Reach home bakers in Burke County, North Carolina. Supply stores, farmers markets, kitchen rentals, and bakery services welcome.

[crosodo.com/advertise](https://crosodo.com/advertise)

#### Your business here

Local cottage food listings, kitchen rentals, co-packer referrals, and community events — post yours on Crosodo.

[crosodo.com/nb/north-carolina/burke-county-discuss](https://crosodo.com/nb/north-carolina/burke-county-discuss)

#### Free ad space available

Let us know if you're a non-profit or community organization. Farmers markets, kitchen rentals, and cottage food events near you welcome.

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